

Century (102 Miles) Description - Watoga Camping Weekend.

Starting from the campground, the ride heads toward Huntersville, and though it is overall downhill, there are a few short hills to climb.

After reaching Huntersville, it is a fairly flat cruise into Marlinton on Rt. 39. This has the most traffic on the ride, but you can make good time on the downgrade into Marlinton.

Marlinton is the last place to fill your water bottles till after the Scenic Highway section. After riding through downtown Marlinton, you take a left at the end of the bridge over the Greenbrier River at the light. Just a fifth of a mile on route 219 brings you to the right turn onto Jericho Road. You start to climb almost as soon as you turn onto Jericho and it gradually gets steeper until it tops out past the old quarry at a well kept farm. Another descent, climb and descent brings you to Hamlin Chapel. After passing the log structure, you veer left and climb up to county route 17.

This is the Woodrow/Williams River road and you take a Left here to head for the scenic highway. (All other riders go right here.) You have a twisting two mile climb out of Woodrow which takes you from the Greenbrier drainage to the Williams R. drainage.

After topping out of the Woodrow climb you have a rolling descent to the Williams R. About a quarter mile past this bridge, you begin a one mile that begins the national forest section of the Williams River road.

At the top of this climb, you have a long descent to where the Scenic Highway crossing the Williams River. You make a left and a right to get on the Scenic Highway (Rt. 150) and immediately start a three and half mile climb.

When you top out of this climb, you have a couple shorter ones before a great descent to Rt. 219. Taking a right onto 219, you continue with a twisting descent down to Edray. A really fun descent, but, as always, watch for gravel in the turns.

As you start to roll out of the descent you will come upon the turnoff for Back Mountain Road on the left. This requires about a 170 degree turn as Back Mt. Road leaves Rt. 219 at a slight angle in the other direction, but you will probably want to continue straight for 1/8 mile to the Kwik Stop convenience store in Edray to get some water and food. Last chance for 17 miles till you get to Cass. You rejoin the other routes on

Back Mt. Road.

From end to end, Back Mountain Road may be the best cycling road in West Virginia. Plenty of elevation change to give your legs a workout and just great scenery and vistas to justify taking a break to really enjoy it all. It is a rural road with very low traffic density. Some challenging shorter climbs rewarded with some nice descents yet plenty of flatter rolling sections. The road surface is in good to excellent shape the whole length.

Starting from Edray, the road is undulating with several short climbs with shorter descents, but overall climbing to the highpoint of the ride at 2,875 feet before dropping around the Loop, one of the scenic highlights of the ride. A descent and short climb brings you to Woods Poage Chapel, before a pleasant long descent into the valley of Clover Creek. Be careful on the descent and control your speed in case you meet oncoming traffic. The valley is another scenic highlight. The farm house across the valley is something to see.

At the end of the valley is downtown Clover Lick. This is where the 39/57 go straight while the 62/80 mile and century rider turn left, and continues to follow Back Mt. Road toward Cass.

From Clover Lick, you have a good climb and a nice downhill with a sharp turn at Alexander Church while descending to Stoney Bottom.

From Stoney Bottom, you climb again up to the junction of Back Mt. Road with route 66. After taking the right onto route 66, you follow 66 to 92 starting with a steep downhill into Cass. There are a couple places for food and water on 66. The first is at the end of the bridge in Cass and the other is Mecks bakery out toward 92. There is a shortcut over to 92 up behind Mecks bakery. The road is a little rough and basically turns to dirt for 100 yards or so.

After reaching route 92, you turn left and head to Greenbank. A small climb at first, but basically flat. In Greenbank, you turn onto route 28/5 at the Greenbank Post Office. This gets you back on the rural roads again and the next few miles are thru a valley with more farms. There are some rollers here but is pretty good cruising. After passing Wesley Chapel you have a short climb past Rochefeller's place and short downhill and cruise out to Rt. 92. Turning right on 92, it is a flat ride to Dunmore where you take a left onto route 28.

Heading down 28 offers great cruising as you enjoy what is a relative flat, overall down grade run into Huntersville with only a couple moderate climbs to keep your legs honest. There is an opportunity to fill up your water bottle at the hand pump in the picnic area of Seneca State Forest. Look for the picnic shelter on the left. The hand pump is about 40 yards off the highway.

When you hit route 39 (finish for the 39 and 62 milers), the century and 80 milers make a left to Huntersville and then a right to head back to the park and campground. From Huntersville, you have about 500 more feet of climbing back to the campground.